

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 1 and 6 are hereby amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for the amended recitations in the claims is found throughout the Specification, specifically at page 25. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully submit that page 12 of the specification, clearly describes and specifies an erroneous insertion preventing recess portion on the electronic equipment, as recited in claim 5.

Applicants submit that claim 6 as amended, is in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections are respectfully requested.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6 are rejected allegedly under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,877,488 to Klatt et al. (hereinafter, merely “Klatt”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,955,722 to Kurz et al. (hereinafter, merely “Kurz”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,772 to Stahl (hereinafter, merely “Stahl”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“An IC card adapter device...

a second insertion direction indication portion and an insertion attitude indication portion provided at the bottom surface of the casing of the adapter device, said insertion attitude indication portion consisting of a model view of the IC card to prevent erroneous insertion of the IC card.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Klatt relates to a contacting unit for a card-shaped carrier element of electronic components in addition to the contact field at the edge of the contacting unit, with contact elements contacting a chip card which is inserted parallel into a slot-shaped insertion channel of the housing of the contacting unit. The insertion channel between a base plate of the housing is laterally open and has an insertion guide at the end of the contacting unit opposite the contact field.

As understood by Applicants, Kurz relates to a smart card reader having a rectangular plan configuration with housing member secured together by sets of complementary overlapping tabs located at the four corners of the rectangle. Some sets include locator elements on one of the tabs of the sets for locating the overlapped tabs accurately relative to one another to assure accurate dimensions. The reader enables a smart card to be coupled to a host apparatus for the transfer of data between the smart card and the host apparatus.

As understood by Applicants, Stahl relates to a smart card reader built into a PCMCIA card that allows a space for additional functions to be included into the PCMCIA card. A support is formed between an upper section and a lower section at an opening forming a smart card slot. The limited insertion of the smart card and the location, of contacts for interfacing with the smart card in the upper section, creates space for other functions to be included, for example, a modem.

Applicants submit that Klatt, Kurz and Stahl, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of a second insertion direction indication portion and an insertion attitude indication portion provided at the bottom surface of the casing of the adapter device, said insertion attitude indication portion consisting of a model view of the IC card to prevent erroneous insertion of the IC card, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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